Dear Dave, 11/27/92

This is a day when in addition to my early morning walking I have a blood test and then physical therapy, after which I get the results of the test, and that tells me whether I have to check with the doctor, when getting ~~him~~ through on his phone can be interminable. And then Lil has shopping. So I can't get much work done and before I usually go out for the paper (it is now 1:45) I can get some but not much work done so I'll go into something that occured to me yesterday and then into what happened, which may have a kind of relationship to it.

Whether nature is healing, probably true if the bronchial infection I've had for weeks is viral, or the second antibiotic prescribed is doing some good, I've begun to feel better and the congestion is coming out more readily, without much coughing and gagging. For weeks I've been bring much clear junk up out of my chest. I'd also figured out a way of getting a little more sleep. Not enough but definitely more. Simple and I'm surprised no doctor suggested it. I take the ~~xxix~~ diuretic before going to bed. As a result I get up less often to go to the bathroom. I still get up often but not as much because one ~~need to~~ cause is reduced.

Yesterday, up a little after one, I ~~read~~ ate to my morning coffee allowance, got the paper and read it and then came to my desk to resume work on the preface I described to you.

Which reminds me and I digress. Lil, whose voice is returning slowly, more in the morning, but who does most of her communication with notes, told me that from the check accounting by the bank you have not cashed the check I sent you. One possibility is that it is lost in the mass of what I sent. You've not mentioned it. Wondering whether you'd seen what I wrote you about the preface, having not mentioned it , made me wonder whether you've come to it, thus the reminder about the check.

As I wrote you, I'd made a number of starts, discarded some and had more or less decided on how I wanted it more only when I resumed, after not working on it for a while, I picked up a discarded version kept as a reminder for some of its content. Then I remembered and started work on the version I intend. It seemed to be going well. I also decided to footnote this part fairly heavily, as I won't be able to with the rest, and that, too, seemed to be going OK. I was in the middle of several notes I'm including not for use but for the historical record when the phone rang. It was Harry Livingstone. On our return from Johns Hopkins the day before, the trip as usual tiring me, there was a letter from him that began with page 4. The previous letter, of three pages, made all sorts of impossible demands and some not inconsiderable boastings about his impended major accomplishment. According to the Baltimore City Paper I'd been sent consistent with what he told it, he is about to break the case open with his proving a major Texas conspiracy of the richest, etc., including Mary Ferrell, who he had independetly wealthy. He enclosed a check for $200 for "research assistance." We had not deposited it and had not decided whether or not we would.

He had done that once before when, because of the extraordinary amount of time he and a couple working with him had taken I did cash the check. My letter to him was neither insulting nor was it any kind of an attack on him. I told him I did not believe some of the things he was asking about and therefore had no information I could give him, did respond to some, but not as he wanted, and warned him against interviewing Diane Bowron as he had interviewed others, arguing a point of view rather than seeking information. He is going to Dallas this coming week and taking a Baltimore policeman who has been helping him, according to the policeman, who we know well and who phoned for some information, more as a bodyguard than anything else. From the City Paper account and from what Hal Verb and Roger Feinman told me, he can use a bodyguard. He has waged a successful campaign of making all the nuts there his enemies by making all sorts or charges against them. So, although tired, and wanting to get it done, especially to get it mailed if anyone came here who could mail it in Frederick, yesterday being a holiday, I wrote him immediately telling him I'd have no more of what he'd repeated, diatribes, accusations of "attacking" him and other paranoidal outbursts. But Nobody came so that letter was not mailed. I added to it yesterday and will mail it when I go out for the papers.

He was pretty clearly out of control. Some of the letter - got day before yesterday was incomprehensible. This includes why he said Dick Gallen told him to go to the FBI, as he said he had. This had not been on my mind while writing, when I'd thought that perhaps when I finished the draft of how the preface begins I'd sent it to him because it is to be a kind of encapsulation of the thrust of the book and its content. After his phone conversation I decided agsinst that.

It was hardly a conversation! But he was not out of control when he began and it lasted more than an hour. He is up to the impossible and is certain of the exact opposite so there is not much I can do to help him that way. I did try in other ways. One was when he gave me a not entirely lucid but lengthy and passionate account of how most of the critics have conspired to ruin him and his majestic work. The part of this that I could understand is that Zapruder is threatening to sue Carroll & Graf for their use of frames of the film Harry indicated he believed he had the right to use because they are Groden's enhancement. (Yes, Groden and Lifton have also conspired to get him and they and others are distributing copies of a Baltimore police arrest record on him they say was for child molestation and he says was for a drunken driving charge, dismissed.) I did try to tell Harry to tell Dick about a copyright decision Jim and I got in 75-1996 that he might find useful. But the longer we talked the less it was conversation from him and the more he edged toward being out of control. We came to one of the things he thinks I have some secrets on and I don't and he made a nasty crack about sending me the check for which I'd not even thanked him and that angered me enough so that - unloaded on him. I told him that over the years he had wasted an enormous amount of time for me, that I'd helped him

all I could, that I'm less able and have my own work from which he has taken and continued to take time, and that I was not going to be inuskted that way or by his false accusations of my responding by attacking him, etc. He denied having done that. My response was that he had asked me to get his letter to which I'd just responded to read him what was incomprehensible about what he'd said about Dick Russell's book and I would read his exact words to him. At that point he just hung up without a word.

It was only then that Lil gave me a note telling me that the night before, when she could not speak, that my older sister had phoned and said she'd phone yesterday morning, before leaving with her son to spend the holiday with him and his family. She'd left by the time I knew and could phone her.

So first I decided to write Gallen what I'd told Harry to tell him, enclosing a copy of my short response, which boiled down to telling him I do not want to hear from him again, plus the page of the letter on which he made those nasty accusations. This was intended to inform him about the court decision on copyright in the event he could use that, about Zapruder's failure to sue over other violations of copyright, with illustrations, and to reflect the state of my Livingstone relationship. Apparently Harry is working on another book, not what he'd told me earlier, a TV documentary.

Whether or not true, Harry told me that Graf had had him to a two-hour lunch at which he detailed the efforts at what Harry referred to as "blackmail." Whether this is more than Zapruder and includes Groden, Lifton and innumerable others was not clear. But two hours is a long time for one such "blackmail."

Harry had sent me a copy a an unidentified memo it was pretty clear was from Paul Rothermel's files quoting Sue Fitch, one of the original Dallas gang and then a friend of the Ferrells with her alleged opinion of me and in the second letter he allegedly quoted me from another. In the course of warning him again about Rothermel it came out that he and an FBI agent named Farris Rookstool are supposedly helping Harry! With his Texas richies conspiracy to kill JFK ! He did tell me that he had not gotten those copies from Rothermel.

see 4

Are you beginning to see how wild an adventure he is launched with? So, I warned him against Rookstool, too, with an account of his approach to me, hiding the fact that he was an FBI agent. Harry is so far gone now that he insists that both the Zapruder and the Bronson films have been altered, part of his supposed plot and both impossible.

During this rambling and lengthy awfulness he did admit that I had shown him serious errors in both books. (He forgot that I did with the first before he published it when he'd sent me a lengthy printout of parts I still have and it has yet to dawn on him that they destroy both books. These major errors do not trouble him now or caution him not to repeat them in a third book. He has the sick idea that because he has "solved" the case all others have the obligation of being his servants and of helping him.

It was the mention of Russell's book that first led me to think about the Gallens

present situation. I then remembered that Russell had said he'd send me a copy as soon as he had one and hadn't and that the Gallens also had not and that David had told me several weeks ago he had some books he'd send me and hadn't. I don't know about Russell but this made me think that the Gallens are staying busy and that part of it may be over these books. It also led me to believe that having published Russell, Dick won't be particularly happen to be reading disproof of it. Not addressed to it but to all of its genre. Harry did twice refer to Dick's having told him about the book I'm working on, both times as a book on the media as Harry referred to it.

In writing Dick I limited myself to the alleged blackmail by Zapruder, without any comment at all on anything else. If he'd wanted my opinion, he'd have asked it. And if he does now he will.

Harry's earlier books must have been very profitable for Carroll & Graf to continue to have the kind of relationship with him that is inevitable. And for him to be spending money the way he clearly is.

He also told me that Berkley, which reprinted his first book, tells him that it also is being blackmailed, the word he uses to the exclusion of all others.

If either has to defend a lawsuit of pay out of court the profits will be seriously reduced, if any would remain. As should have occured to both by now.

Right now I have some concern about what Harry is capable of, by way of violence. He actually said yesterday that he would "kill" those in Dallas he says are his enemies. Not without cause from what I've heard. He may not have meant the word literally but he did use it and no other word about what he'll do to them.

He also, I think in both the letter and his call, referred to himself as for a period kind of crazy, I think referring to one of his letters to me.

Whatever you have been doing with Gallen and the chapters as you've been retyping them is what I think you should continue to do. Part of my reason for taking this time it to indicate that he may have a serious distraction or two right now, part is to make a record of this Harriness.

I hope to be able to return to the preface this afternoon. When I get to where I think it is clear where I'm going and how I'm going there I'll send that for your opinion on it, of that approach, and particularly whether you think that is the right version of the first words in the book.

Harry did upset me enough that I decided not to try any more ~~writing~~ writing yesterday. I looked at football games not of particular interest. And Lil's first baking of a turkey in years turned out fine, so we had a nice dinner. As I hope you also did.* from 3: why would he want my letters to Rothermel and my taking Farewell ameri to Rothermel other than having me part of the critics conspiracy against him and his plot ex He appears to regard Farewell as factual and authoritative and efforts against it as part of Texas plot! I really do think he has me as part of the plot against him and against truth! Why else would he fish & get copies of my letters and ask me repeatedly whey I helped Hunt after I told him I was looking for help against Farewll & what Camarre was up to with Harri

Harry